815,171 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.

FIG.1.

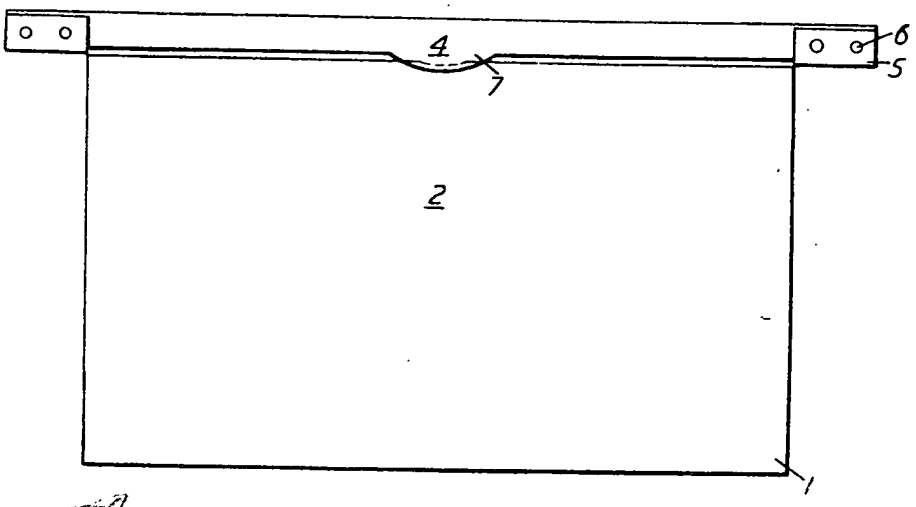

FIG.2.

PATENT SPECIFICATION

815,171

Date of Application and filing Complete Specification: Jan. 25, 1957.

No. 2778/57.

Application made in Belgium on Jan. 31, 1956.

Complete Specification Published: June 17, 1959.

Index at acceptance:—Class 146(1), E(6C: 10).

International Classification:—B42f.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Document Carrier

We, STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES LIMITED, a British Company, of Connaught House, 63 Aldwych, London, W.C.2, England, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to a document carrier and more particularly to a document carrier having a shape affording the possibility of an easy automatic processing.

An object of the invention is to provide a document carrier which can be easily stored in a container able to contain a plurality of document carriers, and which can be taken easily out of such a container.

According to the invention there is provided a document carrier comprising a flat T-shaped sheet of a material of suitable rigidity folded along a straight line substantially parallel to the top of the T so as to produce two surfaces of comparable size which are maintained against one another so that a document inserted between said two surfaces is held therein substantially by friction effects, and in which the cross piece of the T forms two oppositely located projections such that said document carrier can be suspended in a substantially vertical plane by said projections being supported on respective lateral guides or conveyors.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a document carrier, according to the invention.

Fig. 2 is a side-view of the document carrier represented at Fig. 1.

Figs. 1 and 2 represent a document carrier 1 essentially constituted of a sheet of a material possessing a certain rigidity, a plastic material for example, and which is bent at two places according to two parallel lines as indicated in Fig. 2. In this way, the sheet is transformed into a document carrier formed of a front surface 2, of a back surface 3 and of an additional frontal surface 4. The sheet forming the document carrier 1 is essentially rectangular, with the exception of two lateral projections which give a T-shape to the document carrier shown at Fig. 1. After bending, the two thicknesses forming these two lateral projections can eventually be pressed one against the other by means of a small plate 5 bent in U-shape, as shown in Fig. 2. In this figure, however, it is to be noted that the thicknesses have been considerably enlarged with respect to the height of the document carrier 1. After insertion of the parts 5 around the projections, slight embossments such as 6 may be made in order to ensure the maintenance of the parts 5 around the projections. Finally, the frontal bent part 4 may be provided with an edge such as 7 which slightly covers the frontal part 2. This edge 7 is not represented in Fig. 2.

In this way, a document carrier of an extremely simple construction is obtained, as it is sufficient to separate the surfaces 2 and 3 to permit the insertion of a flat document such as a cheque having to be handled by machines such as automatic sorting machines. By choosing a plastic material sufficiently robust, it will be possible to re-use the document carrier many times. The document carrier will preferably be transparent in order to permit the reading of the information to be found on the document inserted between the surfaces 2 and 3. This will permit to an operator after the insertion of a document in the document carrier to code informations corresponding to those read on the document for instance the account number and the amount of the cheque and to mark the corresponding codes on the surface of the document carrier. By way of example, one could foresee a piece of magnetic tape which may be stuck on the surface 3 forming the back of the document carrier 1. By means of a magnetic head and by causing a relative displacement between this head and the document carrier, one will be able to print the wanted codes on the magnetic ribbon fixed for instance on the

[*Price 3s. 6d.*]

back of the document carrier. From this moment on, the document carrier can be handled automatically, for example through sorting machines which can be provided with suitable devices to read the codes inscribed on the magnetic strip fixed to the document carrier.

The fold separating the surfaces 2 and 3 will be obtained for instance by means of bending under pressure and the use of an appropriate temperature for the chosen material, so that the two surfaces always tend to come one against the other. Of course, one may use a brace analogous to 5 and enclosing the fold between the surfaces 2 and 3.

The two projections provided at each side of the document carrier permit its suspension on conveying devices which will be able to take it to a desired position where the document carrier will be able to be disengaged from the conveying device by using again the two lateral projections to lift it vertically.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A document carrier comprising a flat T-shaped sheet of a material of suitable rigidity folded along a straight line substantially parallel to the top of the T so as to produce two surfaces of comparable size which are maintained against one another so that a document inserted between said two surfaces is held therein substantially by friction effects, and in which the cross piece of the T forms two oppositely located projections such that said document carrier can be suspended in a substantially vertical plane by said projections being supported on respective lateral guides or conveyors.

2. A document carrier as claimed in claim 1 in which said two surfaces are maintained against one another by a resilient brace.

3. A document carrier as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which a further fold is made in said sheet along a further line parallel to the top of the T but near the latter so as to provide a double thickness of material for the top part of said T and accordingly for the lateral ends thereof forming said projections.

4. A document carrier as claimed in claim 3, and comprising metallic braces enclosing each of said projections.

5. A document carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which a piece of magnetic tape is stuck on its surface.

6. A document carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which said material is transparent.

7. A document carrier substantially as described and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

E. B. ROBINSON,
Chartered Patent Agent,
For the Applicants.

Leamington Spa: Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press.—1959.
Published by The Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2, from which copies may be obtained.